



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	04-26-01	Interpretation #	01-012
Topic	Corridor Requirements for Group E Occupancies		
Code Section(s)	§ 1004.3.4, California Building Code (1998 ed)		
Requested by	Inspector James Pettigrew Ontario Fire Department 415 "B" St Ontario, CA 91764		
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In existing Group E occupancies where classrooms exit through corridors (no direct exit is provided from each classroom), must the corridors meet the requirements of Section 1004.3.4 of the California Building Code?

Yes. Even in prior editions of the California Building Code (and Uniform Building Code), corridor requirements for Group E Occupancies stated "corridor walls and ceilings shall be of not less than one-hour fire-resistive construction with openings protected...". The exception was "When each room used for instruction has at least one exit door directly to the exterior at ground level and when rooms used for assembly purposes have at least half of the required exits directly to the exterior ground level, one-hour fire-resistive construction of corridor walls and ceilings is not required."

Therefore, one-hour fire-resistive corridor requirements apply to existing classroom buildings that do not have direct exiting to the exterior at ground level.